

Exile Says Stalin Change Doesn't Help Satellites

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The Soviet Union is not lessening its grip on the satellite countries despite its recent campaign to desanctify Stalin, according to Brutus Coste, secretary-general of the Assembly of Captive European Nations. His observation was made yesterday upon his return to New York on the United States liner America from Strasbourg, where he attended sessions of the A. C. E. N. April 12-15.

The A. C. E. N. is composed of political exiles from Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. Most of the group's members held elective or appointive government posts before their countries were taken over by the Communists.

"Very Superficial"

Mr. Coste said the efforts of the Communist de-Stalinization campaign so far have been "very superficial" in the Iron Curtain countries. "Only Communists have so far benefited by it, and only dead men have been 'rehabilitated,'" Mr. Coste declared.

Mr. Costa, who was Romanian charge d'affaires in Washington in the 1940s, said that "very few" political prisoners have been released in the satellite countries. These few, he said, had to sign statements confessing their "errors" and promising support of the Communist regimes. Mr. Costa based his report on informants with close contacts behind the Iron Curtain.

Because they refused to sign statements as a prerequisite for release from jail those prisoners in Romania were taken to Moscow and imprisoned, Mr. Coste

said. "There has been no liberalization in the Iron Curtain countries," he declared. "All the freedoms that were suppressed, still are suppressed."

Also aboard the America, which docked at 8 a. m. at Pier 86, Hudson River and 46th St., was Rear Adm. Webb C. Hayes, U. S. N. (retired), who commanded the America when the vessel was the troop transport West Point during World War II. Adm. Hayes, whose home is in Freemont, Ohio, was accompanied by Mrs. Hayes.

Adm. Hayes said it was a "great thrill" to be a passenger on the vessel which transported 350,000 American combat troops under his command. "I still think she is the finest ship that ever sailed the seas," the Admiral said. He and Mrs. Hayes returned from a six-week European vacation.